

## Shawano County

### **Fred Bartelt**

Born on May 6, 1901 in Shawano, Fred grew up on a farm and became a farmer as an adult. He married Margaret Jansen in 1934. He was a deputy for Shawano County for 60 years. Fred always enjoyed fishing and hunting and wants to be able work for as long as he can. He says, "Life is good; I've had fun. Even now my days are filled with many things. I have no complaints."

### **Ruth I Below**

On January 29, 1901, Ruth was born in Belle Plaine, Iowa. She attended Colorado State Teachers College and taught school in Iowa. She became a professional seamstress and made wedding dresses, theatrical costumes, men's suits, as well as furniture slipcovers and upholstering. Ruth married Leonard Below in 1923 and lived in many cities. In the 1950s, Ruth and Leonard started spending the winters in Corpus Christie, Texas. Her advice is to "keep active, find a hobby or activity that you like and stick with it. Be independent."

### **Gertrude Doherty**

Gertrude was born on July 7, 1901 in Almond. She became a schoolteacher and married Hugh Doherty. They have four children and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Gertrude has always liked music, crocheting, playing cards and working crossword puzzles. She enjoys watching football games on television. Gertrude also wants everyone to know that she is very proud of her age.

### **Irene Hoffman**

Irene was born on September 15, 1900 in Regina. She grew up in Regina and met and married Frank Hoffman there. They had two children and seven grandchildren.

Irene enjoys knitting, quilting and crocheting. She has always had a very close relationship with her family and was active in her church.

### **Leonora Gruner**

Born on March 18, 1901 in Seymour, Leonora graduated from Seymour High School. She took teacher's training and taught school until she married. (At that time, married women were not permitted to teach.) During World War II, she was permitted to be a substitute teacher.

Major lifestyle changes include Leonora's move from her home of 48 years to an apartment, starting to spend winters in Florida during the 1960s and 1970s, and adjusting to being a widow. She has some advice for others: "Don't talk about your aches and pains. If you don't use your mental and physical abilities, you lose them. Force yourself to get dressed every morning and keep up your appearance."

## Shawano County

### **Viola Long**

On May 6, 1901, Viola was born in Wittenberg. She grew up in Wittenberg and went through the eighth grade. Viola married Chancie Long in 1918. They had four children. She was a homemaker and farmed with her husband. She says that “work was my hobby – this included gardening and canning.” Her advice for longevity: “I never drank or smoked; I had a healthy lifestyle. I think that has a lot to do with living a long life.”

### **Mary Barbara Montoure**

Mary was born on July 1, 1900 in the Town of Waukechon and has lived in the Shawano area all her life. She married Henry Robert Montoure in 1918. They had five children and have 19 grand-children and 20 great-grandchildren.

Mary has always been an avid gardener and homemaker. She enjoys knitting, crocheting, embroidering and sewing. She was active in her church and in various civic and social groups. She always liked to travel.

### **Susie Opperman**

Susie was born on August 16, 1898 in the Town of Waukechon. Her father died when she was 13. As her mother was expecting another child, Susie and her brother Henry did much of the farm work. Susie married Frank Opperman and they had eight children. There are now 29 grandchildren and 46 great-grandchildren. Susie always enjoyed babysitting for her grandchildren.

Susie was always a homemaker - all her life she enjoyed sewing, knitting, crocheting, baking, cooking and canning. She notes, “I always worked hard.” At the present time, she enjoys playing bingo twice a week and visiting with friends.

### **Frieda Peters**

On January 11, 1901 Frieda was born in the town of Herman. She farmed with her husband, Ed Peters. They have one daughter, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Besides doing farm work, Frieda spent some time working in a nursing home. Her motto in life: “Live clean and tell the truth. Don't hide anything that comes up.”

*“In November of 1956, I was very happy to take a trip to Los Angeles and get to see Lawrence Welk.”* Verna Schuh

## Shawano County

### **Alta Robel**

Born on November 29, 1901, Alta Martin grew up in Spencer, the town in which she was born. She worked at Yellowstone National Park in "The Old Faithful Inn." She married Jack Robel. They had no children but were very close to their nieces and nephews.

Alta and Jack played bridge with four other couples for about 40 years. Alta was a seamstress and a knitter, a good cook and baker, and was very active in her church.

### **Verna Schuh**

Verna was born in Bergen, Norway on June 3, 1899 and came to America when she was nine years old. The house they left in Norway was large and had running water. She found it easy to learn English. She worked at the Conway Hotel in Appleton as a waitress for 20 years. Verna left to go home to take care of her mother who was ill. In 1950, she married Joe Schuh who had three children.

Verna liked to sew and to dance. She says, "People said I was light on my feet." Her advice to young people: "Learn to appreciate the little things in life. Be satisfied with what you have."

### **Jessie Sohr**

Born on September 3, 1895 in Greenville, Jessie grew up and was a teacher for 17 years. She always enjoyed gardening, sewing, crocheting, crewel embroidery and reading. The inventions that she remembers the most were the automobile and owning their first TV. An important event to Jessie was the building of her own home. Jessie's advice: "Don't smoke or drink, stay out of the sun, eat fruits and vegetables."

### **Nina Steichen**

Nina was born on January 21, 1900 in Dwight, Illinois and became a telephone operator in the days when Central (the operator) had to be rung up before a call could be made. After her marriage to William Steichen, Nina became a farm wife until 1973 when William retired. He died in 1975 and Nina kept their house until 1994 when she left for Bonduel, Wisconsin.

A note: Nina's parents were Danish and her mother often spoke Danish on the telephone. In that way, Nina says, "all the neighbors who listened in on the party line would not be able to understand her conversation."

## **Sheboygan County**

### **Alma Sprenger**

Born on September 22, 1899 in Sheboygan Falls, Alma went through the eighth grade. In 1920, she married Walter Sprenger and moved to Sheboygan where they rented an apartment for \$10 a month. In 1927, they took over the Sprenger homestead and lived there until 1984. Alma recalls the first time she saw an airplane fly over her house. She feels that she has done all that she ever wanted to do ? she went to sewing school at 16, and she enjoyed life on the farm. Today, she sews Christmas tree skirts, eats out with her daughters and plays cards. She says, "Through the years, changes made things different, not necessarily better."

### **Laura Triphan**

I was born on May 22, 1900 in Antigo. We lived in a brick house, as did all our neighbors since my father owned the local brickyard. After high school, I worked in the brickyard. It was during World War I, and there were few young men to hire. In 1920, I married Ed Struch, who was killed in a hunting accident in 1937. In 1948 I married Walter Rusch and moved to Sheboygan as he worked for the Koehler Company. I worked for the J.C. Penney Company and was able to transfer. I still live in the home Walter and I bought. He died of a brain tumor in 1958. Later, I married Otto Triphan who died of a stroke in 1974.

I am still able; I cook and often invite friends in for dinner and a game of sheepshead. I am in fairly good health and enjoying my days.

## **Taylor County**

### **Eda Frank**

Eda was born on December 2, 1891 in Rib Lake where she has lived all of her life and is now a celebrity due to her age. She married Ferdinand Frank in 1912 at St. John's Lutheran Church, which celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary last year. Eda and Ferdinand were married for 71 years and had six children. He died in 1983.

Some of Eda's memories include clearing the dense trees from their land so they could plant crops, and the bands of Ojibwe Indians visiting their farm in the summer. One of Eda's first jobs was as a housekeeper for a family in Rib Lake where she earned \$1.50 per week. She remembers real candles burning on their Christmas tree. She still crochets doilies and plays cards and bingo. At 108, she is happy and content.

## **Taylor County**

### **Madeline Catherine Vinceguerre**

Born on December 27, 1897 in Cumberland (WI) the daughter of Italian immigrants, Madeline had six brothers and two sisters. Later, Madeline had two children of her own and worked in St. Paul and Duluth as a housekeeper for priests. At the age of 69 she returned to Wisconsin as housekeeper for Father Frederick Brost and now lives in Stetsonville. She organized retreats for women and was active in religious education. Madeline is still active, doing some cooking and reading. She attends daily Mass and enjoys visits from her children and friends.

## Trempealeau County

### **Ella Stenberg**

Born in St. Paul on August 26, 1893, Ella now lives in Wisconsin. When she was young, Ella added to her husband's income by the work she did at home as a seamstress while caring for their two young children.

Ella says she always drove a Ford and thought they were the best cars. Her childhood memories include the spotted pony she rode and the dog she played with. She has always had a great fondness for chocolate candy.

### **Pauline "Polly" Vogel**

Polly, born on December 18, 1895 in Arcadia, is Trempealeau County's Centenarian of Distinction. She saw Haley's Comet streak across the sky, and 90 years later, she saw the comet Hale-Bopp. When she was growing up, Polly worked as a clerk. At a church fund-raiser, she met her future husband, Henry Vogel, whom she married in 1916. Henry owned a Chevrolet/Oldsmobile car dealership for 50 years and was Arcadia's mayor for 14 years. Polly and Henry had 11 children, 59 grandchildren, 100 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

## Vernon County

### **Minnie Erickson**

Born on February 1, 1894 in rural Ferryville, Minnie attended a country school. In 1913, she married Lewis Erickson. They farmed together and raised seven children. Lewis died in 1960. Minnie likes watching political debates on television. She enjoys her family and friends, and they appreciate her sense of humor and like to be with her. She has many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

## Vilas County

### **Mark F. Johnson**

Born in Eagle River in 1901, Mark learned to guide from his father who was a top guide on the Chain O' Lakes. At age 12, Mark started working at the Morey Resort between Eagle and Otter Lakes. All guides cooked shore lunches at noon and Mark's were popular. At night the fish were packed in ice for the morning train to Chicago. Mark's largest musky was a 42-pounder.

In 1922, Mark entered UW to study engineering. He married Florence Boltz of Milwaukee in 1927 and ran a brass foundry there until 1961. His son Leland and grandson Lance now run the foundry. (He has two other children, Blanche and Llewellyn.) Mark bought a 260-acre farm near Milwaukee and modernized it. His Holsteins produced milk for the Kraft Company in Chicago.

In 1973 Mark's wife Florence died; in 1974 he married Sylvia Frykholm.

His retirement home, Stoney Point, is on the island on Eagle Lake. Mark is thought to be the oldest living guide in Eagle River.

### **Rose Rusch**

Born on December 19, 1893, Rose had two children, Howard and Evelyn. Her granddaughter recalls that grandma's "cookie jar was always full. Gram would treat us to ice cream cones, which cost 5¢ or to candy – we got lots and lots of candy for a penny. She had a button box; we made pictures with the buttons. She also had catalogs and we cut out paper dolls and dresses. We had good times.

"When we stayed with Gram at Phelps, we used an outhouse that got a bit chilly on our bottoms. When it was really cold, we used slop jars. It was heaven when electricity was run to the outhouse."

## **Walworth County**

### **Ida Mae Allan**

Ida Mae was born on May 12, 1899 in Eland. She taught school in Manitowoc until she met Newlin Allan whom she married in 1923. He died in 1961.

Ida Mae remembers early days: rice was 3¢ a pound, gingham and calico were 10¢ a yard, and sheeting was 8¢ a yard. She doesn't recall having mail order catalogs. She grew up in a happy family with seven brothers and sisters. Her married life was a continuation of her happy family life. Ida sewed, just as her mother had, and made her daughter Joan's graduation dress out of a parachute that her son brought home from World War II. Ida's fried chicken and chocolate cake were favorites with her children.

## **Walworth County**

### **Helen Cole**

Musically precocious, Helen taught herself to play the piano when she was five years old. (She was born on May 14, 1899 in Iowa.) From her early teens she taught piano charging 25¢ an hour. She took lessons herself until she went to college. At Northwestern University, she majored in piano and organ. After she married Thomas Cole in 1924, they lived in New York and New England where she continued studying and teaching.

In Hartford, Connecticut for 23 years, Helen was on the board of directors of the Union Settlement and also gave concerts at local schools and played with other professional pianists. Helen and Thomas moved to Lake Geneva in 1959 where she continued teaching and audited classes at UW-Whitewater. After Thomas's death in 1973, she became active in the YMCA and the United Methodist Church.

### **Esther Mickelsen**

Born on September 26, 1897 in Racine, Esther was one of four children. Her mother died when she was 16 and Esther took over the care of the family. In 1921, Esther married William Mickelsen. They separated in 1940 and divorced in 1958. They had six children, and although the children are scattered, they all stay in close touch with their mother.

Esther worked at various jobs, from factory work to retail sales, while her children were growing up. She retired at the age of 70. She enjoys playing sheepshead, cribbage, and bridge.

### **Elizabeth Sperry**

Born in Elkhorn on January 12, 1897, Elizabeth had an interest in the culinary arts and was an entrepreneur at an early age. As a girl, she dug up horseradish roots from around the railroad tracks, ground them and sold the horseradish door-to-door. She cooked for bachelor uncles on a farm nearby, and after high school worked at her sister's restaurant in Williams Bay. Elizabeth married Glen Sperry in 1917 and went into the restaurant business with his brother. She and Glen started a candy business ? the Chicken Dinner and Denver Sandwich candy bars became famous. Glen opened a pool hall and soda fountain. Elizabeth tells of racking pool balls for Curly Lambeau when the Packers were in town. There are three daughters and many grandchildren.

### **Hazel Roberts**

Hazel was born on December 8, 1897 in Fort Atkinson and has spent her whole life in that area. She recalls the test she had to take to enter high school and that she was so happy that she passed. Hazel still plays bridge at least once a week but doesn't do the beautiful hand smocking that she used to do. She loves to visit with company.

## **Washburn County**

### **Mabel Allen**

Born on October 17, 1899 in Arcadia, Mabel's family moved to Shell Lake when she was an infant. She grew up helping her mother with farm chores. She remembers the country was wild, that "settlers were busy clearing land for farms. We had a lot of fun and

always had company. In the winter, we'd walk two miles to go skating. In the summer, before the hay was put up, we'd have a barn dance. Steve Hawkins played the violin and his daughter played the organ."

Married in 1920, Mabel and her husband, Lester, had four children. Lester owned the Allen Gas and Oil Company and the Ford agency in Shell Lake. He died in 1943 and Mabel raised the children alone. Today, she has many grandchildren; she is active and until quite recently continued to drive. Her family and friends are an important part of her life.

## Washington County

### **Vincenza Mazzaroli**

Vincenza, born on November 14, 1901 in Meduno, Italy, grew up there while her father worked in the United States in the terrazzo business. He had settled in Milwaukee and often sent money home to his family. Finally, the rest of the family emigrated; Vincenza and her mother were the last two, in 1920. Entering through Ellis Island, Vincenza and her mother traveled by train to Milwaukee to reunite with their family.

Vincenza worked in a factory that produced chewing tobacco. She was paid \$12 a week plus a package of tobacco. She married Pacifico Mazzaroli, who worked with her father. When their three children were in high school, Vincenza took a job doing maintenance work in the school system. She and Pacifico lived in Milwaukee until his death in 1972 and her retirement. She then moved to Hartford (WI) to be near her daughter, Anna Mountjoy. Today, she is in general good health and enjoys life.

## Waukesha County

### **Miriam Day**

Miriam was born on May 17, 1898 in Lancaster (WI). She grew up and lived her whole life in Lancaster. She and her husband, Berney had three boys, Robert, James and Charles, and two girls, Dorothy and Mary.

Miriam says that she's had a very good life and was happy about not having to work for a living. She loved being a homemaker and has always enjoyed having fun.

## Waukesha County

### **Selma Lindert**

Born on March 30, 1901 in Lomira, Selma grew up near Hustisford. She remembers playing in the woods with her brother, Irvin. At 13, she was asked to play the organ at



St. Michaels Church. Little did she know she would be their church organist for the next 62 years.

Selma married Ben Lindert in 1921 and they bought a homestead nearby. In 1936 they moved to Mayville and built a home together. Ben died three years later. Selma continued as church organist and as a member of the garden club until she moved to Menomonee Falls. She enjoys reminiscing about the “old days when winter was really winter with snow as high as the farm buildings.”

### **Josef Sauter**

Josef was born in Lublin, Poland on September 7, 1898. His father was a teacher and musician and taught all 11 of his children to play an instrument. Josef plays piano and organ; at college he played piano in a band. He lived through the turmoil of Poland's occupation by Germany in World War II. At one time, Josef went to prison with many others arrested for political reasons. After six weeks in jail, his pastor visited and recognized Josef as his church organist. Josef was freed so that the German soldiers who attended his church could enjoy his music. Worse things came: Josef's 17-year old son was pulled out of school and sent to the Russian front to fight for Germany. He never returned. After the war, in 1955, Josef, his wife and younger son left for America. Traveling west, the family settled in Milwaukee. Although he had a master's degree in economics, Josef worked as a janitor. After a number of jobs, he worked in the payroll department at Concordia University until his retirement.

Josef's advice: “Don't be old. Stay young as long as you can. When you're old, you're not sure, you're dependent ? 100 years is a long time.”

### **Louise Wollermann**

Born on December 16, 1899, Louise is so interested in life that those around her tend to forget her age. She reads the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel from front to back, gets her hair done weekly, and even washes and irons her clothes.

Louise was married to Herman Wollerman, who died in 1971. They had no children, and Louise says about her life, “I used to take care of a lot of little kids.” Friends say Louise and Herman were very caring people and that Louise took care of her mother-in-law and sister in their last years. Married in 1931, Louise and Herman were active members in Eastern Star and the Shriners.

## **Waupaca County**

### **Elsie Fredrick**

Born on July 24, 1898, Elsie and her husband, Louie, farmed together on 180 acres north of Weyauwega. They had one son who died in 1992.

Elsie has three grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. She says that one of the greatest changes that she remembers was when their horses were replaced by tractors. Elsie loved the horses and this was a very hard adjustment for her to make.

### **Richard Garbe**

Richard was born on October 31, 1897 in Milwaukee. For over 40 years he had a milk delivery route for the Borden Milk Company. He started the job with a horse and wagon; in later years, he used a truck.

Richard always enjoyed gardening, fishing and playing cards. In recent years, he enjoyed bowling. He has one child and many grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grand-children.

### **Rose Erma Knoff**

Rose's parents emigrated from Czechoslovakia to Waukechon, where Rose was born on November 14, 1898. At the age of 19, Rose married Fred Knoff. They had four children. In 1945, Rose and Fred moved to Clintonville, where Rose worked as a bookkeeper. Years later she went to work at Pine Manor Nursing Home where she remained until she retired. Rose has been interested in painting, baking, and sewing. She says, "I lived a good but hard life. I thank God for my good children."

### **Martha Krueger**

Martha was born on September 15, 1899 and has lived her life in the Marion area. She attended school at Lake Michael and married Louie Krueger at 19. They farmed in Shawano County. She worked at the Hanson glove factory in Clintonville and was a seamstress for many years.

Martha and Louie had five sons. Martha keeps track of her grandchildren who are scattered around the world. She loves to read and watch TV; she also enjoys playing cards.

## **Waupaca County**

### **Bertina Lastofka**

Born on December 12, 1899 in Madison, Bertina married Ben Lastofka and had three children. She and Ben operated a mink ranch near Iola for 25 years. She then moved to Eagle River where Ben died in 1968. Bertina later moved back to Iola to live.

Bertina was active in church work. She sewed and made quilts for her grandchildren. She also enjoyed fishing and cooking. Today, she reads, plays bingo and cards, and bowls. For the past several years she has been writing her memoirs.

### **Anna Mary Loughrin**

Anna was born on February 24, 1897 in Bear Creek. One sister is still living and she and Anna like to visit.

Anna worked as a seamstress and in a sauerkraut factory where she met Joseph, whom she married in 1923. The day they married, Anna's sister Josephine and her brother Arthur also had weddings. The three weddings, held at the same time, were a big event. Joseph owned a farm near the Loughrin home farm. Anna soon became known for her cooking. She gardened, canned, made maple syrup and served what were called the best dinners in the county for the farmers who helped at harvest time.

Anna and Joseph had four children. During World War II, they moved to Clintonville where Joseph died at age 61. Anna moved to Bear Creek to live with a daughter, with whom she has enjoyed traveling and playing cards.

### **Leona Magdanz**

Leona was born on July 1, 1897 in the town of Saxeville. She remembers how naughty her brothers were when they were young, that they bought tobacco on their way to school.

Leona has always been energetic and is still active. On her 102<sup>nd</sup> birthday, she threw the first ball to celebrate the opening of the new baseball field at her church. She still makes Raggedy Ann dolls as she has for many years.

### **Ida Olson**

Born on December 5, 1897 in Iola, Ida was one of 13 children. In her teens she learned to cook for a Native American school in Wittenberg. She married Isaac Olson in 1919 and was a farm wife for many years. She and Isaac had one son and two daughters.

During the Depression, Ida was a laundress in the homes of wealthy families. During World War II, she worked in a factory. When her husband died in 1962, she moved back to Iola. Ida's grandchildren and great-grandchildren have always been important to her and she likes to bake for them.

## **Waushara County**

### **Mabel Shippee**

Mabel was born on August 11, 1899 in Plainfield. She married Ira Shippee in 1917 and settled on a dairy farm near Plainfield. They lived there until Ira's death in 1962. Mabel recalls that for many years there was no irrigation in the area. In dry years the blowing sand was so thick that cars had to travel with their lights on in the daytime. Mabel's family was poor, but "we managed to get along. When the feed companies started using

printed material for bags, we used the material for clothing.” Mabel and Ira raised four children and today there are many grand-children, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

After Ira died, Mabel moved back to Plainfield. At the age of 63, she learned to drive and continued to drive well into her 90s. She enjoys church, the Senior Center and family gatherings.

### **Martha Wichner**

Martha was born on August 22, 1899 in Richford near Curtis Lake. When she married William Wichner in 1926, they both worked in the retail store in Richford that William’s father had started in 1870. They had no children.

Martha and Bill sold clothing, shoes, food, cheese, meat, and groceries. The store contained a tavern and there was also a gas station. After World War II electricity came into Richford, and the ice box and wood stove were replaced. Wichner’s was the hub of the town; it was a place to meet and chat, to drink and to dance to the music of the jukebox or aged fiddlers. Life changed when the Wichners bought one of the first television sets. At first people came to watch, but then they bought their own sets and stayed at home. As better roads were built and more people had cars, the store lost its importance. After 40 years, in 1969, Martha and Bill sold the store and retired. Today, Martha plays cards, sets her hair herself, and likes to visit with friends. She was declared the 1999 Old Richford Day parade marshal.

### **Esther Wiskow**

Born on March 26, 1898 near Merrill in Marathon County, Esther was the youngest of 10 children. In 1917, she married Emil Wiskow, a cheesemaker and they had three children. After the dairy business, Emil owned a hardware store in Viroqua until his death in 1959. Esther then moved to Redgranite.

Esther was a seamstress, and also worked as a practical nurse. She traveled to every county in Wisconsin, as well as other parts of the country. She has been amazingly healthy and active; she drove her car until she was 90.

## **Winnebago County**

### **Florence Owens**

Born on December 3, 1900 at Clintonville, Florence later moved to the Oshkosh area where she attended the Oshkosh Business College. She then worked as a reporter for the Dairyman Gazette, a weekly newspaper. In 1927, she married Wallace Pride and they lived for many years on the Pride homestead in Oshkosh where Wallace farmed with his

brother. Florence and Wallace had one daughter who died as an infant. Wallace did construction work until his retirement due to ill health.

During World War I, Florence worked in the mailroom at the Four-Wheel Drive Company that made military vehicles. She recalls that the inventors of the vehicle were her neighbors, Otto Zachow and Bill Besserdick.

Wallace died in 1965 and in 1969, Florence married Byron Owens who lived until 1989. They lived in Oshkosh, where Florence still lives visited by relatives and “a lot of true friends.”

## Wood County

### **Martha Arndt**

Martha was born on February 17, 1895 in Clark County. She went to Milwaukee when she was 15 years old. She worked at a boarding house and met Charles Tobin, whom she married in 1914. They had two children. Charles died in 1939. Martha moved back to Marshfield and married Ewald Arndt in 1944. They farmed until 1956. Ewald died in 1961 and Martha lived on in their house until 1987 when she moved to an apartment.

Martha always took pride in her clean house, her garden, baking, and cooking. “Only the Lord knows why I have lived so long.”

### **Ruth Colin**

Born on April 7, 1897, in Sigel, Ruth had three brothers and four sisters. She has outlived them all, although three of her sisters lived into their 90s. Two nieces and two nephews are still living. She worked at the Dixon Hotel and Akey’s restaurant before she married Charles Colin. They had no children.

In 1987, Charles died when he was burned in a fire in their house. Ruth survived with severe burns trying to help him get out of the house. Ruth has always been called “a giving person.” Her nieces recall that no one could ever leave her house without something she had baked. She loved to bake, sew and take pictures.

## Wood County

### **Orena Heckel**

Orena was born on December 2, 1898 in Nasonville, near Marshfield. She wanted to become a teacher and went to Eau Claire County normal school. Orena graduated in 1918. When she taught in a Scandinavian community, Orena, who was Norwegian, felt more accepted by the parents of her students than she had in any other community. She

married John Heckel in 1929 and had to stop teaching. In 1954, however, she resumed teaching until 1972 when she retired.

Orena and John settled on his family's farm. Their son Harry, who later farmed their homestead, received state recognition in 1981 for having a "century farm," one that had been in the family for 100 years. Orena and John raised four children. There are 21 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren. She feels fulfilled in her life.

*If one were to choose a song to describe Orena Heckel and her outlook on life, it would be "Who could ask for anything more?"*

### **Frank Hoffman**

Born on September 17, 1897 at Thorp, Frank married Josephine Shipski of Thorp in 1920, and they had three sons. Josephine died in 1970. Frank served in the Navy in World War I and was a supervisor for 16 years for Clark County. He also farmed in Thorp and was a tavern keeper. Frank has five grandchildren, six great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

### **Annie Kennedy and Alice Kennedy Kliegle**

Annie and Alice were both born in Auburndale on the same day and month but a year apart ? Annie on June 23, 1896 and Alice on June 23, 1897

As young women during World War I, Alice was trained to be a telegraph operator when there was a shortage of men. She worked for the Soo Railroad Line in Downing. Annie worked at home delivering mail on horseback.

It was in Downing that Alice met Albert Kliegle, a blacksmith, whom she married. Annie did not marry and became one of the first unmarried women permitted to raise foster children. She did this for many years, caring for more than 80 children in all. She still hears from many of them. For years, Annie had an open house for Sunday night supper, often serving as many as 20 people. Alice likes to say to anyone trying to help her, "I don't need help. Help Annie, she's older."

## **Wood County**

### **Patricia Nash**

The oldest in a family of five children, "Pat" was born on November 26, 1896 in Antigo. She completed high school, then made hats for the Al Kromm Millinery Company. (She still has a hat she made in 1915.) Pat married Vincent "Dauber" Nash in 1917 while he was on army leave. They raised seven children. Dauber died at the age of 80. Pat lived in

their home in Wisconsin Rapids for 64 years. She loved playing cards and started the 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue Card Club. She still plays cards but stopped square dancing when she was 101.